

**Joint Meeting - St. Mary's County, Charles County and Calvert County Commissioners  
(Wednesday, February 9, 2022)**

*Generated by Sharon Ferris on Thursday, February 10, 2022*

**Members present**

Commissioner President James R Guy  
Commissioner Eric Colvin  
Commissioner Michael L Hewitt  
Commissioner Todd B Morgan  
Commissioner John E O'Connor  
Catherine Pratson, Director Human Resources and Acting Co-County Administrator  
David Weiskopf, County Attorney and Acting Co-County Administrator=  
Neil Murphy, Deputy County Attorney  
John Houser, Assistant County Attorney  
Steve Walker, Director, Dept. of Emergency Services  
Gary Whipple, Acting Director, Dept. Public Works & Transportation  
Jeannett Cudmore, CFO  
Alisa Casas, Communications Director  
Amy Carter, Video Media Producer  
Sharon Ferris, Administrative Assistant

**In Attendance for Charles County:**

Commissioner Reuben Collins  
Commissioner Bobby Rucci  
Commissioner Gilbert Bowling  
Commissioner Thomasina Coates  
Commissioner Amanda Stewart  
Mark Belton, County Administrator  
Deborah Hall, Deputy County Administrator  
Wes Adams, County Attorney  
Danielle Mitchell, Associate County Attorney  
Michelle Lilly, Director of Emergency Services  
Carol DeSota, Clerk for Commissioners of Charles County

**In Attendance for Calvert County:**

Commissioner Earl Hance  
Commissioner Christopher Gadway  
Commissioner Kelly McConkey  
Julian Willis, County Administrator  
John Norris, County Attorney  
Rachel Distel, Clerk to the BOCC  
Al Jeffery, Deputy Director of Public Safety

**WELCOME**

Charles County Commissioner President Collins called the meeting to order at 4:33 pm.

The Joint Virtual Meeting with the full Boards of County Commissioners from Charles County, Calvert County and St. Mary's County was held to discuss joint priorities during the Maryland 2022 Legislative Session and other topics of interest to the three counties.

Following opening remarks from the Commissioners, the following topics were discussed:

A. St. Mary's County Animal Adoption and Resource Center - St. Mary's County is in the process of hiring a Shelter Manager will be opening the new facility after Labor Day; therefore, they will be withdrawing from their agreement with Charles County for use of the Tri-County Animal Shelter.

B. Police Accountability Board - The process of establishing the Police Accountability Board was discussed. Calvert has established their Plan, had a public hearing and plan to take action February 15 to proceed with process of advertising and selecting participants. St. Mary's County has requested a Public Hearing to approve their proposed resolution to establish a 5 member Board. Following the Public Hearing a decision will be made on March 15th. The application process for board members will follow. Charles County drafted a resolution to establish a 9 member Board. A Public Hearing was held, and the advertisement is out now for board members.

C. Update on EMS Mutual Aid - The three counties are collaborating on a new Memorandum of Understanding for Mutual Aid Firefighting, Emergency Medical Services, Hazardous Materials and Special Operations assistance. More time is needed to evaluate data and an update will be provided around July 2022. It was noted that St. Mary's County is purchasing an ambulance to be housed at the Veterans Home in Charlotte Hall and will be available to assist with calls in the north end of the county. This will alleviate some of the mutual aid issues in the north end of the County.

D. Senate Bill 413 - Voting Rights Act of 2022 - Counties and Municipalities. All three counties are tracking this bill.

Additional topics discussed were:

1. SB 136 - College of Southern Maryland - Charles County Campus - Transition to Charles County Community College - The three Counties have sent letters of opposition to this Bill.
2. Southern Maryland Agriculture Development Center - Request for additional funding is moving forward. This will be an asset for all Counties.
3. Bridge Safety. Discussions focused on the number of suicides over the past several months at the Thomas Johnson Bridge. All three Commissions agreed to send a joint letter to MDOT requesting options for bridge safety measures to address potential suicide jumpers. It was noted that the Nice Bridge going into Virginal should also be included.

**ADJOURN**

A motion to close the meeting was made by Commissioner Bowling seconded by Commissioner Morgan.

The meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Minutes approved by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on February 15, 2022.

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Sharon Ferris, Administrative Assistant